



INTEROPERABILITY IN VIRGINIA



Panel Name: **The Move to Statewide Common Language Protocols**

Speakers:

- **Jim Junkins**, Virginia APCO (Common Language Initiative Action Team Lead and FY 2007 SIEC Member)
- **Bill Bullock**, VAGEMSA (FY 2006 SIEC Vice Chair and FY 2007 SIEC Member)
- **Col. H.C. Davis**, Virginia State Police (FY 2007 SIEC Member)
- **Bob Nibarger**, Virginia Beach

General Comments:

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials –International, Inc. (APCO) endorsed the Common Language protocol this morning.

Question and Answer Session:

Q: Did you ever consider using tones instead of words for Common Language?

A: [Junkins] Yes, but all transit fleets do not have that capability, and tones would come across differently in different systems.

Q: Are there any plans to work with the Virginia National Guard?

A: [Junkins] We are moving towards trying to make our effort a national effort. We will certainly encourage the Virginia National Guard to incorporate Common Language Protocols into training for National Guards across the Nation.

[Davis] The Virginia National Guard is part of the State Interoperability Executive Committee and has been involved in our ongoing discussions. We recognize that they have a unique situation but we hope that we can all cooperate.

Q: Can State Agencies on STARS adopt the Virginia State Police (VSP) system for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system?

For Discussion Purposes Only.

Do Not Quote or Cite.

A: [Davis] Yes, just like now state agencies can leverage the VSP CAD plain language.

Q: **CAD changes are currently unique to Virginia State Police (VSP), do you envision any efforts down the road that will come up with a common CAD to be interoperable with local agencies?**

A: [Davis] That is our hope - that there will be interoperability with all agencies. VSP will not charge to share the software and will be glad to share.

[Jenkins] We addressed the CAD system in the Initiative Action Team (IAT). We felt that we couldn't take that on right now. Some folks will have a system that they can not readily change since it is off the shelf. We felt that it would be detrimental at this time to take on too much. It is wonderful that VSP can do it, since they have the capacity. It would be a great initiative with their help to make changes to CAD.

[Davis] We don't want to mandate to anyone but if you have software that will accept the change VSP will share it. We would love to have everyone on the same CAD but for now we don't want to mandate something that locals can't afford

Q: **Has there been any thought or review of how to identify officers (dispatch numbers or badge numbers)? Are there any efforts to standardize?**

A: [Davis] We assign others on our radio a unique ID number. However, right now, that is not something we have talked about. It is probably going to be down the road.

[Audience member] If you have a situation where networks are connected, the other unit should identify where they are from. This should prevent any confusion about the number they use to identify themselves.

Q: **Is there going to be a list of common verbiage? For example, is there common verbiage for a disabled vehicle?**

A: [Davis] That is what we are trying to do eventually. We are working on the 10 codes first translating them into simply common verbiage.

[Jenkins] The first shot of this dealt with situations that would endanger public safety lives. People wonder why we don't just go for it all and come up with standard verbiage. We left that out because we don't know if we or the responders are ready to go there yet and we wanted to leave some decisions up to the discretion of the individual agency. This is a perfect example of a situation where if practitioners feel this is necessary they

For Discussion Purposes Only.

Do Not Quote or Cite.

For Discussion Purposes Only.

Do Not Quote or Cite.

need to come back to the Advisory Group, the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) and give their feedback.

This is also where regional groups can really be helpful.

For Discussion Purposes Only.

Do Not Quote or Cite.